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09/438,436	11/12/1999	JEFFREY MARK ACHTERMANN	AUS91999065US1	9315

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EXAMINER

TODD, GREGORY G

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2157

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	01/11/2007	PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.



**DETAILED ACTION**

***Response to Appeal***

1. This office action is in response to applicant's appeal brief filed, 11 October 2006, of application filed, with the above serial number, on 12 November 1999 in which no claims have been amended. Claims 1-4, 6-15, 17-26, and 28-33 are therefore pending in the application.

In view of the Appeal Brief filed on 11 October 2006, PROSECUTION IS HEREBY REOPENED. A new ground of rejection is set forth below.

To avoid abandonment of the application, appellant must exercise one of the following two options:

- (1) file a reply under 37 CFR 1.111 (if this Office action is non-final) or a reply under 37 CFR 1.113 (if this Office action is final); or,
- (2) request reinstatement of the appeal.

If reinstatement of the appeal is requested, such request must be accompanied by a supplemental appeal brief, but no new amendments, affidavits (37 CFR 1.130, 1.131 or 1.132) or other evidence are permitted. See 37 CFR 1.193(b)(2).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-3, 12-14, and 23-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zolnowsky (hereinafter "Zolnowsky", 6,779,182) in view of Kumpf et al (hereinafter "Kumpf", 6,289,371).

Zolnowsky teaches, substantially, the invention as claimed including job and thread prioritized scheduled (see abstract).

As per Claims 1, 12, and 23, Zolnowsky discloses a connection scheduling method, wherein Zolnowsky discloses:

determining if a job is available for scheduling (job scheduling) (at least col. 5, lines 13-21);

determining, in response to said step of determining if said job is available, if a session is available, wherein said session is included in a pool of sessions (threads), said pool of sessions having a preselected one of a set of priority levels corresponding to a priority level of said job and wherein said session effects an execution of said job (runnable threads in queue of threads with dispatch priority) (at least col. 6, lines 33-65); and

launching said session to effect said execution of said job, if said session is available (thread (and processor / job) selected for execution) (at least col. 7, lines 17-28; col. 8, lines 43-60).

While Zolnowsky does teach scheduling errors in thread queues (at least col. 8, lines 3-17), Zolnowsky fails to explicitly teach the step of launching an error handling thread in response to an error condition, said error handling thread releasing said session. However, the use and advantages for using such an error handling thread is

Art Unit: 2157

well known to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made as evidenced by the teachings of Kumpf. Kumpf teaches launching a thread and encountering an error, at which time, an error recovery algorithm is executed and the thread finishes (at least col. 7, lines 41-59). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the use of Kumpf's error recovery algorithm into Zolnowsky as this would enhance and allow the system of Zolnowsky to be prepared for error handling and as Kumpf teaches, when an error does occur, it is desirable to execute an algorithm to handle the error and release the session by 'finishing' it.

As per Claims 2, 13, and 24.

session comprises a thread (thread) (at least col. 6, lines 33-65).

As per Claims 3, 14, and 25.

creating a connection to a target system for execution of job (target processor being selected) (at least col. 10, lines 21-42).

4. Claims 4, 6-9, 15, 17-20, 26, and 28-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zolnowsky in view of Kumpf and further in view of Northrup (hereinafter "Northrup", 6,671,713).

As per Claim 4, 15, and 26.

Zolnowsky and Kumpf do not explicitly disclose determining if connection is an existing connection, and creating the connection is performed if connection is not an existing connection. However, Northrup teaches if a connection primitives wherein a

Art Unit: 2157

thread communication service will run upon request for communication (at least col. 4, lines 22-60). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate Northrup's connection primitives into Zolnowsky and Kumpf's system as Northrup teaches communication occurring upon connection commencing.

As per Claims 6, 17, and 28.

Zolnowsky and Kumpf fail to explicitly disclose changing value of a job state from a first value to a second value in response to said launching of said error handling thread. Northrup teaches the use of a thread returning an error condition and "error" state (at least col. 56, lines 33-36; col. 55, lines 27-35; col. 27 line 66 - col. 28 line 15). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the use of having a value being changed when an error occurs as Northrup discloses into Zolnowsky and Kumpf's system as this would reduce scheduling errors in Zolnowsky and Kumpf's system and define conditions of the thread.

As per Claims 7, 18, and 29.

the first value signaling that the job is available for scheduling (non-errors not being caught in verification step) (at least Zolnowsky col. 8, lines 11-17).

As per Claims 8, 19, and 30.

Zolnowsky teaches retrying the steps of determining if a job is available for scheduling, determining if a session is available, and launching said session (at least Zolnowsky col. 8, lines 11-17; error resulting in selecting correct queue). Kumpf teaches

Art Unit: 2157

finishing a thread when an error is encountered (at least col. 7, lines 41-59). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the use of Kumpf's session release into Zolnowsky as this would enhance and allow the system of Zolnowsky to be prepared for error handling and as Kumpf teaches, when an error does occur, it is desirable to release and finish the session.

As per Claims 9, 20, and 31.

Zolnowsky and Kumpf fail to explicitly disclose the step of retrying to be repeated until a predetermined time interval has elapsed. However, the use and advantages for retrying tasks based on elapsed time is well known to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made as evidenced by the teachings of Northrup (at least Northrup col. 10 line 49 - col. 11 line 18). Northrup discloses relaunching after a delay period after it attempts to relaunch immediately. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the use of Northrup's time-interval thread launching into Zolnowsky and Kumpf's system because this would further allow tasks that could not be completed and relaunched the second time to attempt again at a later time when there might be less network congestion, for example.

5. Claims 10-11, 21-22, and 32-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zolnowsky in view of Kumpf and Northrup and further in view of Rangarajan et al (hereinafter "Rangarajan", 6,260,077).

Art Unit: 2157

As per Claims 10, 21, and 32.

Zolnowsky, Kumpf and Northrup fail to explicitly disclose registering a callback method in response to an expiry of a predetermined time interval. However, the use and advantages for responding to a time expiration is well known to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made as evidenced by the teachings of Rangarajan (at least Rangarajan Abstract; col. 17, lines 13-39). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the use of Rangarajan's responding to an expiry of an elapsed time into Zolnowsky, Kumpf and Northrup's system because this would invoke an event to cause a thread to occur upon, for example an error, and allow the client application to perform its function and then return control to Zolnowsky, Kumpf and Northrup's host computer (target system) upon the predetermined time interval.

As per Claims 11, 22, and 33.

Zolnowsky, Kumpf and Northrup fail to explicitly disclose the steps of determining if a job is available for scheduling, determining if a session is available, and launching said session being performed in response to an invoking of a callback method by a target system, the target system for execution of said job. However, the use and advantages for a target system responding to an elapsed time expiration is well known to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made as evidenced by the teachings of Rangarajan (at least Rangarajan Abstract; col. 17, lines 13-39). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the use of Rangarajan's responding to an expiry of an elapsed



time into Zolnowsky, Kumpf and Northrup's system because this would invoke an event to cause a thread to occur upon, for example an error, and allow the client application to perform its function and then return control to Zolnowsky, Kumpf and Northrup's host computer (target system) upon the predetermined time interval, and thus have the requested task be entered into the thread and be completed.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-4, 6-15, 17-26, and 28-33, have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. Applicants arguments to dependent claims are moot as Zolnowsky in view of Kumpf changes scope of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Newly cited Chkodrov et al, in addition to previously cited Rhee et al, Hogle et al (col. 8-9; error handling and the use of exceptions) and Periwai et al (col. 12; error handling and the use of exceptions), Cohen et al, Bhagat et al, Silva et al ('760), Hanif et al, Dixon et al, Herbert et al, Brackett et al, Marshall, Teng, Batra, Behm et al, Davis et al, Murray, Trugman, Morris et al, Sundararajan, Beaulieu et al, Farrell et al, Bigus, Silva et al ('537), and Coffman et al and Ross et al are cited for disclosing pertinent information related to the claimed invention.

Art Unit: 2157

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gregory G. Todd whose telephone number is (571)272-4011. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9:00am-6:00pm w/ first Fridays off.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on (571)272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Gregory Todd

Patent Examiner

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